

INDIANA DATA AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

COMMITTEE MEETING

March 4, 2009

The IDACS Committee met on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at Indiana State Police Communications Building Training Center with the following members in attendance:

Major Doug Shelton
Chief Timothy Viles
Captain Michael White
(Acting Chairman)
Melissa Farthing
Angela Ferguson

Don Kottlowski
Brian Maxwell
D. Michael Paxton
Jill Schmidt
John Wall

Advisory members present:

Lieutenant Mark Carnell
Senior Trooper Eric Garceau
Senior Trooper Brian Millard
Carrie Hampton, DOC Supervisor

OPENING COMMENTS

Acting Chairman White welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., with a quorum present.

Captain Michael White said he will serve as the Acting Chairman for the committee meeting because Major John Clawson is in Dallas, Texas for the NCIC Regional Working Group meeting.

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2008 MEETING

There were no corrections or additions made to the minutes of the December 3, 2008 meeting. A motion was made by Michael Paxton and seconded by Major Shelton, that the minutes be accepted as written. The motion was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

IDACS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

New Agencies/Additional Terminals Approved

There was eight (8) Mobile Data Agencies approved to go on the system since the last meeting. In keeping with our new procedures, we will no longer list additional terminals approved for existing terminal agencies. (copies attached)

Terminal Operators Approved

After receiving favorable recommendation from the System Coordinator, the Chairman approved seventeen (17) IDACS operators with an arrest record. The decision was based on there being no felony convictions. There was one (1) denial issued.

IDACS Coordinator Report

Andre' Clark referred to a hand-out on the subject of Timely Entry. CJIS has looked at how long it takes agencies to enter warrants, stolen vehicles and such and determined there is an issue within the U.S. with timely entering. CJIS has stated that a delay of greater than three (3) days on any entry is unacceptable. Their standards when they audit us will now be three (3) Days. This means if you get a warrant from a court and it takes longer than three (3) days to enter the warrant into the system; then it needs to be documented why it took longer than the acceptable time period from CJIS. We advise, specifically on warrants that you time stamp it when it is received. If you don't have enough data to enter the warrant for some reason, then document it. We have about one and one-half years before our next CJIS audit, so we need to pick up on this right away. Again, three (3) days is the acceptable time frame for entering any type entry into IDACS/NCIC.

Another issue to cover is the other hand-out about Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs); they are court appointed to represent children's interest primarily in court proceedings. These individuals are generally not paid, they are volunteers, so the question was asked of CJIS, can we run Triple I on these people before they are employed by the Court. The answer was "no". The rationale is these individuals are not employed by criminal justice agencies, they are volunteers. They are not paid or under the direct supervision of anyone that is a criminal justice activity. NCIC said we need to change Indiana Code to make it such that it is allowable to run these individuals by their fingerprints as a prerequisite for being employed in these positions. That is a long-term fix; what is an immediate fix? That is to require the individual that wants to be a CASA to present the Court with a copy of their Triple I, which they can obtain from the FBI for a fee, as a prerequisite for their employment.

A second part of the question was, can we present the results of a Triple I that has been run on a case involving a child to a CASA? The answer was "no". Again, this individual is not a member of a criminal justice activity. The situation will occur where a Judge will tell you that

you “will” give them the Triple I information. What we advise you to do with those cases is give the information to the Court. Let the Court give it to CASA, if the Judge so chooses.

Mr. Clark informed everyone that Vivian Nowaczewski was not able to be here today. She had planned to give an Overview of “Messenger”. He stated he could not give an Overview, but could answer some basic questions about it. We plan to get out a new system in probably late summer. Messenger is much like Omnixx, a Windows-based product, only better. We have listened to all the comments you have sent to us, all the complaints, all the recommendations and for two months the Trainers have been working to make Messenger even better than now. Messenger is a product that is made by Computer Projects of Illinois, it is a great product, much simpler to use and friendly to you because we are going to make it, in some respects, look a lot like Omnixx. A lot of the features are new, they are based upon what you said you wanted changed in Omnixx. We have increased your capability by allowing you to do things you could not do in Omnixx. Whenever you increase capability you always lose something, so you are going to lose a couple of things. One of the things you probably will be losing is your ability to store unlimited amounts of messages, as you are now. Every transaction you do now is stored within your own system. Messenger doesn’t store as long as Omnixx does, so transactions won’t be available to you months and months after you ran them. Those are some shortcomings, but we are developing work around those issues now to make sure you still have coverage. Everything you run resides on the state system, so at any time you could request specific information and we could provide it to you. Even with Messenger you are still able to access any past transactions, you just won’t be able to do it yourself in most cases.

IDACS Trainer Donna Decker added she worked with Russ from CPI last week for two days and they went through each screen. Some of the screens you will notice will look like duplicates, but we are combining them, it has the same information required on different screens, we are combining it, then you might use a drop down message key. Specifically, like on Clears and Cancels, some of the information is identical, so they will be combined. Your Field Help now, instead of right clicking to bring up a box, is going to be a “hover”, that you hover your mouse over and it will bring up the information and if that doesn’t help you, you can right click and it will shoot you straight into the NCIC Book where it is at. It looks cleaner; you can leave your email up on one column and work off of Messenger. For a driver license, you are used to name, date of birth and sex; that is going to be your one main menu, click the tab by name and OLN, it is more user friendly. Your basic information will stay the same and in general, in the same format.

Andre’ Clark also added that they will try to integrate this so the same time you get Messenger you will also have the capability to access BMV Digital Photo. This means you will have access to the entire BMV photo file. You can attach photos to wanted person records and to missing person records. It is a great enhancement to use digital imaging to make law enforcement much more effective.

IDACS Security Officer's Reports

Sr. Trooper Brian Millard –During this quarter; Notice of Violations were issued to Lake County Sheriff's Department for excessive delay in entries; Steuben County Sheriff's Department for no documentation on a Triple I request; Anderson Police Department for excessive delays on Missing Persons entries and Kokomo Police Department for no supporting documentation for a Triple I request.

Sr. Trooper Eric Garceau –Notice of Violations were issued for Vermillion County Sheriff's Department for issues with entries for Triple I; Indianapolis-Marion County Police Department for issues with entries and Edinburgh Police Department for issues with entries.

He also reiterated for his counties about the three (3) day limit on entries Andre' Clark was discussing. If you have a Detective who has a date of theft; say on March 5th and he doesn't enter it until March 10th and the reason was because the homeowner didn't have his serial number, VIN number, etc.; that needs to be documented with that case as to why it was past the 3 days. If you have a warrant and the issue date was March 5th and you don't get that warrant until March 10th, it needs to be documented for him some way that it was a problem with the Court or what the problem was.

Brian Millard added this can be accomplished partly by time-stamping.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Area I Angela Ferguson – There was nothing to report, they would be holding a meeting sometime in March or April.

Area II Melissa Farthing – She had no report other than their meeting will be April 8th at 10:00 a.m. at the Columbia City Government Center and JTAC will be attending for any questions.

Area III Brian Maxwell – Since he was ill during the last meeting, he briefly went over their Fall meeting of October 24th which was held at the Vanderburgh County Jail in Evansville. They had discussion on classes and scheduling of operators and the required terminal time for new operators prior to attending a class. Vivian Nowaczewski discussed several things with JTAC entries and mentioned about the new system provider, CPI; introduced our new IDACS Trainer Mr. Bailey, touched on the CASA workers and discussed the new IDACS website being up and running. They had twelve (12) individuals in attendance representing ten (10) agencies. The next meeting will be March 27th at 10:00 a.m. at the Bloomington ISP Post.

Area IV John Wall – Their Area IV Spring meeting is set for Friday, March 20th at 10:00 a.m. at the Batesville Fire Department Meeting and Training room. There will be an election for the Area Representative.

Area V Jill Schmidt – The next meeting will be April 28th at 1:00 p.m. at District #52 in the INDOT Conference room.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

None

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Donna Decker asked about the December 2008 IDACS minutes not available on-line.

Michael Paxton said they are now available on the public IDACS website at www.in.gov/idacs. They are not in the private Omnixx website.

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Acting Chairman White announced for any new members of the audience; this meeting is held quarterly and this is an opportunity to have all of your Area Representatives, the Systems and Programming staff, IDACS staff and Security staff all present at once. If you have any questions or issues, small or large, now is the time to get your answers.

Linda Adams of Hendricks County Sheriff was interested in the new systems impact on MDD's.

Michael Paxton answered the new system replacement is more accurately described as half a new system because what we are replacing is the Con Component, what you see on your screen. We are getting rid of Omnixx and replacing it with Open Fox Messenger. Open Fox is the back end of the system, the part that connects to NCIC, NLETS, BMV the Criminal History system, JTAC and other external entities; that is not changing. We have essentially accomplished unifying the entire system under a single vendor, which is Computer Projects of Illinois. This has a lot of advantages because their front end client will talk much better with the back end server system than another company's would. We are only replacing the front end. MDD's and the CAD systems connect directly with the back end system, the Open Fox Message Switch; they do not use the Client that we are replacing, so they will be unaffected.

Andre' Clark asked if there will be any re-programming requirements for the MDD's service?

Acting Chairman White stated that this year, "no", in the upcoming years, maybe in a couple of years. We will let you know far enough in advance, so you can contact your vendors and they can make the change ahead of time.

Melissa Farthing asked if there were still regular meetings with BMV. Their agency received an Accident Report from out of state that shows severity levels; was it anything they needed or is it just extra information?

Michael Paxton answered one change they recently made was discovered when BMV initially coded our Inquiry for the Stars system; they are vendor coded and were completely a separate

Inquiry than what you would get if you went to a branch and said you needed your official driving record. That created problems; there were deleted remarks on there, not for public consumption and were causing quite a few headaches for some police officers; this may be some of that still on there. We will be going to the official driving record in late March. BMV does a quarterly rebuild of their system and incorporates any changes, so we anticipate this particular change going in somewhere in late March. We will check on this after it goes into effect. The copy Miss Farthing had was given to Mr. Paxton to use as a test case.

Andre' Clark said any time you discover a problem with the system, do not hesitate to send it to us so we know about it and try to fix it. You can fax, email or call us regarding problems.

Someone asked if there is a new listing for BMV Codes on plates? They have come across three (3) not listed in the drop down box.

Michael said they try to keep the plate lists up to date. Last year we actually got a sizeable listing from BMV that we incorporated into the drop downs and he thinks in the "Help". He said when you find any missing, send them in and they will have them added. BMV does not provide us with a comprehensive list from year to year. BMV Codes are different from NCIC Codes and we use the NCIC Codes standard. The Lincoln Commemorative was one plate they were talking about is missing, but someone pointed out you need to look under "Abraham" not Lincoln. Michael said something they could do, is list them in different places in the drop down so it could be found.

Donna Decker said a question came up about snowmobiles; the Jasper County BMV has told them they have to run title checks on all snowmobiles. She wondered if anyone else has been told this. Some of the VIN numbers are now 17 characters long. They have to do the title check and fill out the paperwork for the BMV. They said this is something new that came up that the local BMV is saying has to be done.

Another question Donna had was about Coroners having access to IDACS. What is the stipulation or requirements from them and for what information? She had already sent Sgt. Carmin, Vivian Nowaczewski and Andre' Clark an email on this. If the Coroner doesn't have a User Agreement; then "no"; according to Senior Trooper Garceau. They also would need to apply for an ORI.

Andre' Clark suggested getting the legal people to look at it and see what they say, there are some gray areas; then we will probably do a newsletter article on the subject.

Michael stated the Federal regulation does state that for the purposes of the system, the criminal justice agency is an entity that expends a substantial portion of their budget in activities on criminal justice functions on the administration of criminal justice. The Coroner, it sounds like does not put a substantial amount of his budget in activities in the administration of criminal justice, but rather a minor portion.

After more discussions on the subject including Chief Viles; Lt. Mark Carnell, Legal Advisor, gave additional explaining and stated it may be a policy situation for the Committee to make.

Andre' Clark suggested while they are discussing this situation, to re-address the situation with the Fire Department, just so everyone is clear on it also, they are not allowed access to IDACS information for employment purposes. Can you provide your local fire department NCIC/IDACS information, "no" you can't do it; they are not a criminal justice agency.

Someone asked how about the Emergency Management personnel. Do they fall under the same guidelines? Unless they fit the criteria as a criminal justice agency, the answer is "no", you can't release it. In the case of the State Fire Marshal, they have an ORI and his investigators coordinate with other state fire entities on arson investigations, they share the information as a result of their investigation with those fire departments around the state. Do they release it to them, no, they only share it. It is an investigative team.

Angela Ferguson said they are still having problems with S01 messages. In the case of a gentleman they were looking for that kidnapped a woman; we never got notification other than by the news. No S01 message was received. The week before, there was a bank robbery in a small town and it was in close proximity to us and we did not receive an S01 message on that situation.

Another subject for her was regarding JTAC's new site. When not enough pertinent information (DOB and last name) is given, no IDACS number will be shown. For the guys running it on MDTs; the order will not show in the system.

If the courts don't have the required information to allow the entry to go into IDACS, contact the PD that may have the necessary information.

Mr. Carlos Cowan, the JTAC representative, said he will look into the matter and get back with her.

Angela also said the Tippecanoe County Clerk told her they didn't like JTAC and are not going to use it.

Mr. Cowan said they can not make the Courts use it, but they have been told they will be responsible to get the Orders with the proper information to the agency to be entered in IDACS the old way.

Mark Carnell has been working with the legislature and he stated there is a potential legislative fix to require Courts to use the Protective Order Registry. He is not sure if it will happen or not.

Melissa Farthing said they ran a Gun Permit at their agency; they received a hit with the FBI number. They ran the FBI number and their return says the Interstate Identification Index response is a result of your record request for the FBI number; subject record will be automated at the result of your request and will be made available via Interstate Identification Index two (2) business days after your receipt of this message. What do they do with that?

Andre' Clark asked if it was from our state or another state. She replied from Florida. He said they are telling you no state is 100% up-to-date on their criminal records. Specifically, older records, that record was not automated, it was still hard copy and they had to automate it and in two (2) days they will have it on-line for you available through Triple I. Since it didn't appear, you will need to query them again.

Major Shelton asked Melissa if they were running it for the Sheriff to do the background check. She answered, yes. Major Shelton informed her if they don't get it back, don't hold up the application, go ahead and send it because we will research all that. They have been in the process of having an electronic application available and it is in six (6) counties. That is one of the things they have been telling the Chiefs and Sheriffs, you don't really need to do the Triple I checks if you don't want to, because we do all that on our end as well. The local check is very important; we want to see if there is something locally that we might not have, like involuntary commitments to mental health facilities or an old arrest that for some reason did not make it to the State Repository.

Andre' Clark just received a note from someone inquiring about law enforcement officers flying armed. Last year Homeland Security sent out new guidelines concerning what needs to be done to allow a law enforcement officer to fly on US aircraft with a weapon. A request needs to be submitted using a specific message format (a switched message) that you send to the Department of Homeland Security, who actually sends back within minutes an automated approval number. They sent the message out last year and a couple of times since then, but it seems not everyone has seen it. We published an article in the latest IDACS Newsletter, there is a long drawn out description of how the automated request works. It is totally automated, if you don't put all of the information they ask in the message you will get a response back in seconds telling you changes are needed. Just follow their format.

There was a discussion on notifications from gun shops regarding the attempted purchase of a firearm by an individual. The response goes to the ISP Data Operations, it is then hand carried to ISP Enforcement Operations for them to notify the local police to send someone to the gun shop to arrest the individual. Through this process a lot of time can elapse and by the time the local police arrive, the individual has left. Something else needs to be instituted to expedite this process.

Acting Chairman White said if it comes into the Data Operations Center, can they contact the agency directly? After more discussions, it was decided they need to look into the matter further to make any decisions.

Melissa Farthing said since the Imaging is up and working, she did it last night and it is fun. She has an example if anyone wants to see it and explained what happens with the different printers. She asked if they need to keep a file on image numbers.

Michael Paxton said they should be able to know what image goes with what record. There is a screen to query an image by itself, make sure the image is clear.

Donna Decker added that once you have entered it; make sure you look at it. They had an agency that was working on it and had two images, when both were brought up; they were not the same person. Check your work.

Linda Adams stated their MDT's can't get the image. She didn't know if there was some way to fix that problem. She was told they need to contact the MDT vendor. Linda said they had and was told they didn't have the speed to allow the download in a timely manner. To have the image there is a wonderful feature, but the only people who can see it are the Dispatchers.

Michael Paxton said since it's inception of the system in 2003, there has been a published specification for the vendors to use. It is called DSEO2020 and it is on the Omnixx side of the website – on the private Omnixx website, not on the state public website. That specification is available and it tells them how they have to Code to request the image to receive.

Linda Adams also asked on the new system; is it going to require any additional training. Andre' Clark answered it will require training and we will provide it just like we did for Omnixx; we will provide it for Messenger. Most likely it will be "Train the Trainer", so you will send either three or four people to train, they will go back and train at the agency. Don't forget, we have an existing system that is O.K. for our needs right now, so we aren't going to take Omnixx away from you immediately and give you Messenger, we are going to phase it in. If you have three terminals, we probably will have you put Messenger on one of them and keep the other two with Omnixx until you are ready to completely transition.

Michael Paxton added that as far as equipment is concerned; technology is constantly changing and so you don't want to be using equipment that is over three (3) years old no matter what system we are using. With that, he would say, if it's not Windows XP Service Pak 3 and a last couple of years old system, you will want to try to budget to re-fresh this year.

Acting Chairman White said it is not a mandate, if there was something we were going to push and say absolutely, we would have told you a year ago, so don't panic, your current systems will work on this. Michael is just saying the typical life of technology is three (3) years.

Linda Adams then asked if there is a way on-site they can back-up their information to a disc off of the new system or is that something in the process of setting up the new system that might be considered. Right now we don't keep logs, because we have access to that information for up to a year or more.

Michael Paxton told her what they can do according to CPI. The log will re-write itself automatically, but it goes by time, not by size, so if you feel you have sufficient disc space you can tell it to keep your transactions for a year and it won't re-write until a year and a day. You cannot back it up; it is an encrypted file, so backing it up to another disc will make it inaccessible.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or comments, Brian Maxwell made a motion to adjourn and Major Shelton seconded the motion. Acting Chairman White adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 3, 2009, (10:00 a.m.) at the *Indiana State Police Communications Building Training Room, 8500 East 21st Street, Indianapolis, IN. 46219.* All 2009 meetings will be held at this location.